

Covering the States of Arkansas,
Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma
and Texas



Region VI

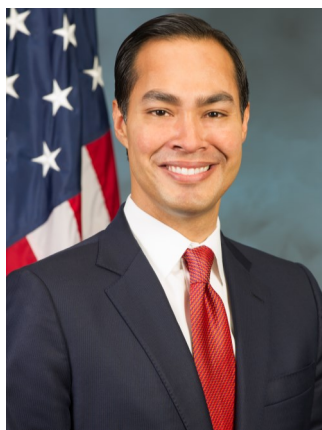


US Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Tammye H. Treviño
Regional
Administrator

Southwest News-Third Q 2014

Region VI Welcomes New HUD Secretary Julián Castro



HUD Secretary Julián Castro

Message from the Regional Administrator:

I am very pleased to announce that Julián Castro was sworn in as the 16th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 28, 2014. In this role, Castro oversees 8,000 employees and a budget of \$46 billion, using a performance-driven approach to achieve the Department's mission of expanding opportunity for all Americans.

"Julián is a proven leader, a champion for safe, affordable housing and strong, sustainable neighborhoods," said President Barack Obama after Castro's confirmation. "I know that together with the dedicated professionals at HUD, Julián will help build on the progress we've made battling back from the Great Recession - rebuilding our housing market, reducing homelessness among veterans, and connecting neighborhoods with good schools and good jobs that help our citizens succeed."

As Secretary, Castro has charged the Department with one goal: giving every person, regardless of their station in life, new opportunities to thrive.

Before HUD, Castro served as Mayor of the City of San Antonio. During his tenure, he became known as a national leader in urban development. In 2010, the City launched the "Decade of Downtown," an initiative to spark investment in San Antonio's center city and older neighborhoods. This effort has attracted \$350 million in private sector investment, which will produce more than 2400 housing units by the end of 2014. In addition, San Antonio's East Side is the only neighborhood in America that has received funding to implement major projects under three key Obama Administration revitalization initiatives: Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods and the Byrne Criminal Justice Program.

In March 2010, Castro was named to the World Economic Forum's list of Young Global Leaders. Later that year, Time magazine placed him on its "40 under 40" list of rising stars in American politics.

Secretary Castro received a B.A. from Stanford University in 1996, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2000. He and his wife, Erica, have a daughter, Carina.



Region VI Regional Administrator Tammye H. Treviño

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Grant Opportunities

National Disaster Resilience Competition

\$1 billion in CDBG Disaster funds available to all States in Reg VI and Moore, Ok; New Orleans, St. Tammany Parish, Jefferson Parish in Louisiana.

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The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Turns 40!

On August 22, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law creating one of HUD's hallmark programs – the *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program*. Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 merged seven individual competitive grant programs into a block grant providing local communities the flexibility to decide for themselves how best to meet their own community development needs.

For the next 40 years, thousands of cities, urban counties and rural communities have come to rely upon this critical resource, investing \$144 billion to undertake a wide variety of activities from improving public facilities to producing affordable housing. Each year, CDBG funds are distributed to state and local governments according to their population, poverty, and other housing variables.

CDBG's impact can be measured in every corner of the U.S. and in the lives of millions of Americans, 95% of whom are low- to moderate-income citizens. In recognition of the accomplishments of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HUD has launched the **CDBG Program's 40th Anniversary** webpage, which contains FAQs, funding allocation summaries and other resources related to CDBG. HUD is also encouraging grantees to connect with each other to share their experiences and best practices at **#CDBGturns40** or at **CDBGturns40@hud.gov**.

CDBG 40th Anniversary Webpage:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/CDBG_Turns_40

HUD Personnel News

The U.S. Senate confirmed **Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar as HUD's new Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**. Most recently, he served as the Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center, and before that, as the Director of the Washington, D.C., Office of Human Rights.

Carol Galante, Federal Housing Commissioner and Assistant Secretary for Housing, will be leaving HUD at the end of 2014 to accept a Distinguished Professorship in Affordable Housing at the University of California, Berkeley, where she will also serve as the Director of the Berkeley Program in Housing and Urban Policy and co-chair the Fisher Center on Real Estate Policy Advisory Board. Thanks to her efforts, and those of the entire Office of Housing, to help stabilize the market, homeowners' equity has grown, foreclosures are down, and American families are on track to purchase over five million homes this year.

FHA News

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published Mortgagee Letter 14-43 on July 24, 2014, reminding lenders participating in **the agency's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program to make certain senior borrowers are fully informed of all their options when applying for reverse mortgages**. FHA's Mortgagee Letter also reinforces the agency's prohibition against misleading or deceptive advertising and that this prohibition extends to misleading or deceptive descriptions of the HECM program. Read the letter:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=SFH_FHA_INFO_14-43.pdf

FHA has also announced **that borrowers who prepay their FHA-insured mortgages will not have to make interest payments beyond the date their mortgage is paid in full**. FHA's rule, **Handling Prepayments: Eliminating Post-Payment Interest Charges**, applies for FHA-insured mortgages closed on or after January 21, 2015. This rule explicitly prohibits lenders from charging borrowers post settlement interest, which is broadly defined as a "prepayment penalty" by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), for all FHA Single Family mortgage products and programs.

In addition, FHA announced a **new rule** to ensure borrowers have early access to information when making decisions about their FHA mortgages. **Effective for FHA-insured Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs) originated on or after January 10, 2015, this rule makes two revisions to FHA's ARM Program**. Read FHA's rule: **Adjustable Rate Mortgage Notification Requirements and Look-back Period for FHA-insured Single Family Mortgages**.

Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Progress Report

In 2010, HUD, the VA, the U.S. Interagency Council to End Homelessness and the Obama Administration committed to ending homelessness among veterans by 2015. Across the country, working with other federal agencies and govt. and private partners, we have been keeping veterans off the streets, on a path to recovery, and in permanent housing. Through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH). HUD has provided **73,000** Section 8 housing vouchers specifically for homeless veterans, and the VA, in turn, is providing case management and treatment.

While that is great progress, there is still more to be done. And so on June 4, 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, along with the National League of Cities, called for a Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness to fully enlist cities and city leaders across America to the cause. The First Lady recognized that our nation's mayors hold the keys to broader success on a local level, and by the end of June, 85 mayors had taken the pledge. To date, 180 mayors have signed the pledge to end veteran homelessness by 2015, and the list grows each day.

Mayors in Region VI who have joined the Mayors Challenge to date:

Arkansas

Fayetteville – Mayor Lioneld Jordan

Little Rock – Mayor Mark Stodola

Louisiana

Baton Rouge – Mayor Kip Holden

New Orleans – Mayor Mitchell Landrieu

Shreveport – Mayor Cedric Glover

New Mexico

Albuquerque – Mayor Richard J. Berry

Las Cruces – Mayor Ken Miyagishima

Oklahoma

Norman – Mayor Cindy Rosenthal

Oklahoma City – Mayor Mick Cornett

Texas

Austin—Mayor Lee Leffingwell

Dallas – Mayor Mike Rawlings

Houston – Mayor Annise Parker

San Antonio – Mayor Ivy Taylor

Waco – Mayor Malcolm Duncan , Jr.



First Lady Michelle Obama speaking at the 2014 National Conference on Ending Homelessness. On the issue of veteran homelessness, she has said, “Here in America we take care of our own. When a veteran comes home kissing the ground it is unacceptable that he should have to sleep on it.”

The First Lady has said, “Here in America, we take care of our own. When a veteran comes home kissing the ground, it is unacceptable that he should have to sleep on it.” She continued, “Ending veteran homelessness can be a first step in proving that we can end homelessness.”

Already, the Challenge, HUD /VA and USICH program efforts have caused a drop in veteran homelessness of 33% nationwide. We wish to thank all the mayors who have signed on to the Challenge, and look forward to those who will join soon as we move towards the 2015 goal of eradicating veteran homelessness.

State and National News Releases (click release to read full text)

Region VI News Releases

Arkansas

HUD PROVIDES \$464,772 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PROGRAMS IN ARKANSAS

HUD AWARDS \$91,000 IN HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS IN ARKANSAS

Louisiana

HUD PROVIDES \$2.25 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PROGRAMS IN LOUISIANA

HUD RETURNS HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS TO LOCAL CONTROL

New Mexico

HUD PROVIDES \$653,791 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PROGRAMS IN NEW MEXICO

HUD AWARDS HOUSING COUNSELING GRANT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCES IN ALBUQUERQUE

Oklahoma

HUD PROVIDES \$785,047 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PROGRAMS

HUD AWARDS \$62,000 IN HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS IN OKLAHOMA

Texas

HUD AND VA ANNOUNCE VOUCHERS TO HELP 22 HOMELESS VETERANS IN HOUSTON, TEXAS FIND PERMANENT HOMES

HUD PROVIDES \$7 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL HOMELESS PROGRAMS

National News Releases

HUD, VA, AND USICH ANNOUNCE 33% DROP IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS SINCE 2010

FHA TO ELIMINATE "POST PAYMENT" INTEREST CHARGES

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SETTLEMENT WITH BANK OF AMERICA WILL STRENGTHEN FHA FUND, PROVIDE BILLIONS IN CONSUMER RELIEF

HUD RELEASES JULY HOUSING SCORECARD

FEDERAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS PROVIDING COMMUNITIES WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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HUD at**

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espanol.hud.gov

HUD Policy Development and Research

Read PD&R's e-newsletter [THE EDGE](#) to keep current on policy development and research breaking news.

Easter Seals Arkansas Breaks Ground on New Little Rock Apartment Complex for the Disabled

Little Rock Field Office Director (FOD) Wanda C. Merritt, Multifamily Director Linda Hardway and other HUD staff joined Easter Seals Arkansas officials on July 29, 2014, to break ground on its newest apartment complex, Harold Court. The new complex will be available to 14 adults with disabilities and is expected to be completed by spring 2015. Harold Court is named after Harold



Little Rock Field Office staff, including FOD Wanda Merritt (3rd from r.) and Multifamily Director Linda Hardway (2nd from r.) at the groundbreaking for Harold Court, which will house 14 disabled adults when completed next year. Easter Seals Arkansas is the sponsor.

Rousch, one of the first tenants of Armistead Village, another Easter Seals apartment complex for the disabled in Little Rock.

Harold died three and a half years ago. His brother, Randy Rousch, attended the ground breaking ceremony and said he was proud to be a part of it. "It was not too long after [Harold died] that we found that they were going to be building the facility," Rousch said, adding that his brother enjoyed living at Armistead Village. "It was one of the best things that ever happened to him," he said. "He was in his early to mid-50s and that was the first time in his life that he'd ever lived on his own."

Easter Seals secured \$1,491,100 of funding from HUD, \$98,000 from the Federal Home Loan Bank and \$125,000 from the Central Arkansas Planning and Development District for the construction of Harold Court. FOD Merritt said, "I'm so impressed with the work Easter Seals has done to help the disabled."

The Albuquerque Field Office Staff Work with NM Public Housing Authorities on 2014 "Reconnecting Families and Dads" Initiative

l-r: Alexia Chavez, MaryAnn Chavez, El Camino Real Housing Authority Exec. Dir. Richard Boucher, Curtis Sedillo, and Flora Chavez, HUD PIH General Engineer, at El Camino Real HA's Father's Day barbeque. Seventeen other NM housing authorities held similar events, a 43% increase from 2013.



The Albuquerque Field Office worked diligently with New Mexico Housing Authorities to have maximum participation in this year's Reconnecting Families and Dad's Initiative. Eighteen NM public housing authorities held events around Fathers Day with the goal of connecting fathers with their children and with information on job and educational opportunities. HA's hosted various events including movies; card creation workshops; barbeques; live music; games; cake and ice cream; and a pool party. Albuquerque Field Office Public and Indian Housing and Field Policy and Management staff attended the event hosted by El Camino Real Housing Authority in Socorro on Friday, June 13, 2014. El Camino Real was the first NM PHA to participate in the 2012 Father's Day initiative. A barbeque and games in sunny Socorro made for a wonderful day.

HUD Officials Visit the Choctaw Nation Promise Zone

Last year, President Obama laid out a new initiative to designate a number of high-poverty urban, rural and tribal communities as Promise Zones, which the federal government will partner with to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety.

Communities were required in their applications to demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of their local commitment to become Promise Zones. They were asked to identify a set of outcomes they will pursue to revitalize their communities, develop a strategy supporting those outcomes, and realign resources accordingly. For communities selected, the federal government helps the Promise Zones access the resources and expertise they need. PZ communities also receive preference points on certain federal grant applications for 10 agencies, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, USDA, HUD and the Small Business Administration.

In Region VI, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma had the distinction, along with the Eastside area of San Antonio, of being named as two of the first five Promise Zones in the nation this past January.

The Choctaw Nation's Promise Zone hub city is Durant, Oklahoma, in the southeastern corner of the state. Leaders of the Promise Zone initiative met on August 25, 2014, to identify tools, resources, and strategies to make the Promise Zone a success. John Redman with USDA is leading the federal coordinating role in the initiative.

The Choctaw Nation's specific goals include converting an abandoned building, donated by Durant Public Schools, into a Boys & Girls Club; building on a partnership between the City of Durant and the Choctaw Nation that resulted in the construction of a fire station using Indian Community Block Grant (ICBDG) funds; creating an Individual Development Account program so that tribal members can save toward college, homeownership or starting a business; and continuing job creation and revenue production through the Texoma Print Shop, which was refurbished using ICBG funds into a state-of-the-art printing facility that currently generates more than \$7 million annually and employs 15 people.

The 2014 Promise Zone competition will be announced in September. Up to 15 more PZ communities will be designated over the next two years. For more information, and to see the funding notice when it is published, visit the Promise Zone website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/promise-zones>



Choctaw PZ meeting participants (l.-r.) Michelle Tinnin, Native American Program Specialist, Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs (HUD-OKC); Dara McCoy, Director of Grants Coordination, Choctaw Nation; Sarah Jane Smallwood-Choctaw Nation; Sharon Gordon-Ribeiro, Field Office Director, Tulsa HUD Field Office; John Redman; USDA Rural Development Atoka, OK; Duane Winship, Deputy Director, Choctaw Housing Authority; and Sharon Wise, Native American Housing Services, Inc. (a Native non-profit).



One of the Choctaw Nation's PZ goals is to expand business and jobs at their Texoma Print Shop, which currently does \$7M in business and employs 15 people.

Shifa Women's Center Breaks Ground in Houston

On June 26, 2014, the City of Houston, Houston City Councilmen Larry Green, HUD FOD Dr. Edward Pringle, and Shifa USA Board Chairman Shazad Bashir gathered with staff and neighborhood stakeholders to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Shifa Women's Center in Houston. Construction began that very day on the facility which, upon completion, is intended to house up to 18 women and children who are the victims of violence and abuse.

Over the course of a year, Shifa expects the Women's Center to serve 70 individuals and provide them with safe housing and the social services needed to move toward independence. And most importantly, the facility provides a secure environment to help repair lives and bring hope for tomorrow. The Shifa Women's Center is a strong example of HUD, local governments, and non-profits working together to change not only communities but the lives of women and children in need.

The 7,200 square foot Center was built with over \$1,000,000 in CDBG funding from HUD and the City of Houston, with a total construction cost of around \$1,500,000. At the event, Dr. Pringle said, "I want to know that HUD appreciates what you are doing and the impact you will have on of women and children in this community. We are happy to have helped, but we know it is you who will be doing the heavy lifting every day to help repair lives and lead your tenants to a safe and stable life."



Shifa USA staff at the groundbreaking for the Shifa Women's Center in Houston. When completed in 2015, the 7200 square foot facility will house domestic violence victims and their families. CDBG funds helped finance the construction.



Multifamily Housing Transformation Update (Click the Pic for more info)

Beginning on October 6th, Multifamily Production employees will be moving from field offices throughout Regions VI and VII into the new Fort Worth Multifamily Regional Center and Kansas City Multifamily Regional Satellite Office. Together, these offices will form the new Southwest Multifamily Region, the first of five new Multifamily regions that will be established as part of the Multifamily for Tomorrow transformation.

Secretary Castro & Region VI, Participate with New Orleans Mayor Landrieu in Hurricane Katrina 9th Anniversary



At the August 29, 2014, Hurricane Katrina 9th Memorial Ceremony in New Orleans, front row, r-l: Secretary Castro, Region VI RA Treviño and New Orleans FOD Randall at the ceremony honoring the more than 1800 lives lost in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the city.

HUD Secretary Julián Region VI Regional Administrator Tammye Treviño and New Orleans Field Office Director Earl Randall, participated in a memorial ceremony honoring the more than 1800 lives lost after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005. Secretary Castro joined New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu in laying a wreath at the Hurricane Katrina Memorial on Canal St., where the remains of nearly 100 unidentified or unclaimed victims rest. Secretary Castro said, "On this ninth anniversary of Katrina, there is so much the people of New Orleans should be proud of. We in HUD have been proud to be a partner in that progress, and we know that we're going to be there every step of the way to continue it."

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Call or email a HUD Office near you! We welcome your questions, comments, suggestions and concerns. As always, we thank you for your partnership!

Texas

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Our Vision

HUD is the Department of Opportunity. As HUD approaches its 50th anniversary in 2015, Secretary Julián Castro is focused on advancing policies that create opportunity for all Americans, creating a solid foundation for the next 50 years.



**BUILD A
STRONGER HUD**



**HELP AMERICANS
SECURE QUALITY
HOUSING**



**END
HOMELESSNESS**



**STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITIES IN
THIS CENTURY
OF CITIES**



**LEVEL THE PLAYING
FIELD FOR ALL
AMERICANS**



**ADDRESS CLIMATE
CHANGE AND
NATURAL DISASTERS**